**Bush Honeysuckle Control**

The two species of honeysuckle shrubs, planted (Morrow's (Lonicera morrowii) and Amur) (L. maackii), that cause the most frequently observed invasive problems in Missouri will be referred to collectively as bush honeysuckles. Two other species, Bell’s (L. x bella) and Tartarian honeysuckle (L. tartarica), are also considered when referring to bush honeysuckles. Bell’s and Tartarian honeysuckle have similar impacts to natural communities and similar management implications.

EFFECTS ON NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Bush honeysuckles will invade a wide variety of natural communities with or without previous disturbances. Affected natural communities can include: lake and stream banks, marsh, fens, sedge meadow, wet and dry prairies, savannas, floodplain and upland forests and woodlands.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended Practices in Natural Communities of High Quality

Control measures may enlist one or more of the following techniques: prescribed burning, hand pulling of seedlings, cutting and herbicide treatments. A recently introduced pest, the European Honeysuckle aphid, somewhat controls flower and fruit production in some of the bush honeysuckles. Heavy infestations cause tips of branches to form "witches' brooms" or deformed twigs. This often greatly reduces fruit production. Native ladybug beetles, however, have been noted to control this aphid.

In fire-adapted communities, **spring prescribed burning will kill seedlings and kill the tops of mature plants. Bush honeysuckles readily re-sprout and repeated fires are necessary for adequate control. It may be necessary to burn annually or biennially for five years or more for effective control.**

**Seedlings may be hand-pulled** when soils are moist. All of the root should be removed or re-sprouting will occur. Physical removal by hand-pulling smaller plants or grubbing out large plants should not be used in sensitive habitats. **Open soil and remaining root stocks will result in rapid re-invasion** or re-sprouting of honeysuckles and other exotic species.

**Bush honeysuckle stems can be cut at the base with brush-cutters, chainsaws or hand tools. After cutting, a 20-percent solution of glyphosate should be applied to the cut stump either by spraying the stump with a low pressure hand-held sprayer or wiping the herbicide on the stump with a sponge applicator to prevent re-sprouting. Glyphosate is available under the trade names Roundup** and Rodeo, products manufactured by Monsanto. While the Roundup and **Rodeo labels recommend a 50- to 100-percent concentration of herbicide for stump treatment,** a 20-percent concentration of Roundup has proven effective (Note: some products containing glyphosate or another herbicide may be pre-diluted, so be sure to read product labels to understand herbicide concentration levels). It is not known if this lesser concentration is effective for Rodeo also. Rodeo can be used in wetlands and over open water, but Roundup is only labeled for use in non-wetlands. Herbicides should be applied to the cut stump immediately after cutting for best results. Application in late summer, early fall or the dormant season has proven effective. Some re-sprouting may occur with a follow up treatment being necessary. Glyphosate is non-selective, so care should be taken to avoid contacting non-target plants. The wood of bush honeysuckles is very tough and easily dulls power tool blades. Underplanting of native species following honeysuckle removal may be necessary to reestablish a desirable composition of ground cover, shrubs and understory trees. This may also minimize the risk of reinvasion by bush honeysuckles and other exotic species.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES ON LANDS OTHER THAN HIGH-QUALITY NATURAL AREAS

Methods given above for high-quality natural communities are also effective and preferred on buffer and disturbed sites. When an area with bush honeysuckle lacks sufficient fuel to carry a fire, herbicides may be necessary to obtain control.

**In dry, upland areas, a foliar spray of 1-percent glyphosate will control seedlings**. A 1.5-percent foliar spray of glyphosate just after plant blooming in June will control mature shrubs. **Application should occur from late June to just prior to leaf color changes in fall. The herbicide should be applied while backing away from treated areas so as not to walk through the wet herbicide.**

**In areas near water, a foliar spray of 1-percent Rodeo** (glyphosate) with Ortho-X27 spreader, will control seedlings. Application should occur from late June to just prior to changes in leaf color in the fall. Foliar application of a 1.5-percent solution of Rodeo (2 oz. Rodeo/gallon clean water) will kill mature plants if all foliage is sprayed. This control method usually requires less labor but more herbicide.

In addition, Krenite controls bush honeysuckle when applied according to label instructions. Any treatment should be rechecked in following years for reinvasion. Glyphosate is a nonselective herbicide and care should be taken to avoid contacting non-target plants with herbicide. Do not spray so heavily that herbicide drips off the target species. **By law, herbicides may only be applied according to label instructions.**

FAILED OR INEFFECTIVE PRACTICES

The herbicide **Garlon does not** control bush honeysuckle.

Most of the **52 species** of honeysuckle (Lonicera L.) grace the landscape with alluringly hued blossoms and an ambrosial, perfumed bliss that draws hummingbirds and children alike to the sweet nectar hidden in their stamens. **Some cultivars, however, have invasive tendencies, such as the tatarian honeysuckle (Lonicera tatarica), which thrives in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 2 through 11; and bush honeysuckle (Lonicera maackii), hardy in USDA zones 2 through 8. These varieties reproduce quickly, encroach on native plant life** and grow in highly diverse habitats – a perfect storm of invasive potential. You need a two-pronged approach -- mechanical and chemical – to control and kill these exotic evergreens.

**Pour 6 tablespoons of concentrated water-dispersable herbicide containing 18 percent glyphosate and 1 gallon of water in a plastic or plastic-lined steel compression tank sprayer. Add 2 tablespoons of red or blue dye formulated for herbicide use in the tank and shake it for one to two minutes to incorporate everything**. Reduce the amount of glyphosate as needed if using a spray bottle. For example, if you have a 1-quart spray bottle, you would mix 1 1/2 tablespoons of glyphosate and 1 1/2 teaspoons of dye with 1 quart of water.

**Cut back the honeysuckle’s main stem to 1-inch above soil level using lopping shears or, if cutting a stem larger than 1-inch wide, a pruning saw.** Make the cuts cleanly and straight across.

**Set the honeysuckle’s scaffold of branches aside for disposal later**. Pull all stems emerging from the main stem and place them with the scaffold. Wipe the top of the stump with a moist cloth if you used a pruning saw.

**Spray the stump’s cut surface with glysophate immediately after cutting the main stem**. **Rest the tip of the nozzle against the cut surface of the stump and gently squeeze the trigger to release a few drops of glyphosate. Spread the glyphosate the cut surface with the nozzle. This application method minimizes overspray and drift.**

Cut and spray the remaining honeysuckles one at a time. **You have a small window of time, maybe two or three minutes, to apply glyphosate before the stump starts to callus over,** inhibiting the transfer of glyphosate to the vascular system.

**Things You Will Need**

* Concentrated water-dispersable herbicide containing 18 percent glyphosate
* Plastic or plastic-lined-steel compression tank sprayer or spray bottle
* Red or blue dye formulated for herbicide use
* Lopping shears or pruning saw
* Moist cloth (optional)

**Tips**

* Kill the honeysuckles in mid to late autumn when photosynthesis starts moving the plant's carbohydrates to the root system to use as food during dormancy.
* Treat the honeysuckles with glyphosate on a dry, non-windy day with a temperature above 60 degrees Fahrenheit for best results.

**Warnings**

* Never use an unlined-steel or galvanized-steel tank to mix or apply glyphosate. The metal reacts with glyphosate to produce a noxious, highly flammable vapor that ignites when exposed to heat.
* Never dispose of glyphosate anywhere that outlets to a body of water, such as a storm drain, sink or toilet.
* Wear protective glasses, long sleeves and waterproof gloves when handling and applying herbicides.